

# RAMSEY & WARBOYS REPORTER

ISSUE 25 • JULY 2017

COVERING LOCAL NEWS, SERVING LOCAL PEOPLE

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## Tesco targeted by cash-grab theft

Police have appealed for information following a break-in and theft at the Tesco supermarket on Neil Way, Ramsey. Just before 1:00 am in the early hours of Friday 23rd June, thieves smashed a window to gain entry to the shop then forced open several self-service tills, leaving with a small amount of cash. Investigations are continuing, and police ask that anyone with information contact them via the non-emergency 101 number or via their website. This is the first time thieves have targeted the store after-hours, although in September 2015 a number of unknown males did attempt to leave with two filled trolleys without paying, attempting to empty the trolleys into the back of a waiting vehicle. The suspects ran off leaving the vehicle and the stolen items when approached by staff.

## HUNDREDS RAISED AT FETE

The crowds took to the Abbey Green in Ramsey on Saturday June 17th to enjoy the St Thomas A Becket Fete. The fete included a host of stalls from community groups and charities, with entertainment provided by Ashbeach School, Urban Dance Academy and the Upwood Ukuleles. Lady De Ramsey opened the event and helped judge the record-breaking fun dog show alongside her husband. Before the opening, the Mayor of Ramsey also led a one minute's silence. An undoubted highlight of the day was Di Pitts charity hair shave, from which over £1000 was raised for the Friends of North Kigezi Diocese. The event itself raised over £900 for St Thomas a Becket/Ramsey St Mary's Church. See if you made it into our full gallery on pages 16 & 17

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The Ramsey & Warboys Reporter is an independent newspaper with no ties or associations with any larger publishers or organisations.

Each month, we bring you the best selection of news, views and what's on in the Ramsey area - written and produced locally and delivered FREE to your door.

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If you have a story or if you know of an event which may be of local interest please let us know; we can publish it in your newspaper -

**The Ramsey & Warboys Reporter**

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## in brief

### READERS LETTER

The walled garden is an absolute delight to visit. Tranquil surroundings which now have the addition of a magnificent greenhouse, thanks to a most generous benefactor. This enchanting environment however, has one DRAWBACK; access can only be obtained by walking across from the Rural Museum (also very worth a visit). It concerns me that the original access via the gate that opens onto the Abbey School site is NOT OPENED to coincide with the Garden opening hours on a Sunday. I'm certain that this 'secret gem' would receive far more visitors if access could be granted via this gate. Wheelchair users and other disabled users have a very long and bumpy ride to reach this delightful garden. Access instead of via this locked gate, forces visitors to make a circuit of the garden and enter from the back gate, an unnecessary extra journey. Is there any possibility that permission could be obtained to open the more logical access to Ramsey's Secret Garden? Perhaps other readers agree?

*P. Taylor, Ramsey*

### Missing Scarecrow

One of the Scarecrows taking part in Upwood Village's competition has mysteriously disappeared, and many people are concerned for his welfare! The possibility he has headed to Oz in search of a brain has not been explored.

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- a third party seeking to ensure accuracy of published information

We are also regulated by IMPRESS, but initial complaints must be made to us The Ramsey &

### COME AND HEAR THE BACKROOM ACOUSTIC CLUB

The Backroom Acoustic Club is branching out across Ramsey in the build-up to CREATE-FEST. To find out when and where the sessions will be held, simply read on!

**11th 3:30 - 4:30 Wild Frost Cafe**

**12th 8:00 - Close The Railway Pub**

**13th 7:00 - 9:00 Milkshake Junction**

**14th 12:00 - 2:00 Great Whyte**

See Page 11 for more information...

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## JULY 2017

- 1st My Life & My Art**  
Ramsey St Mary's Church
- 2nd Bands on the Green - City of Peterborough Concert Band**  
Abbey Green, Ramsey
- 8th + 9th Miniature Steam and Fire Engine Rally**  
Wood Lane, Ramsey
- 9th Bands on the Green**  
*Gerry Rose Jazz Tradition*  
Abbey Green, Ramsey
- 15th Create-Fest**  
The Camp, Wood Lane, Ramsey
- 23rd Bands on the Green - March Brass, Freddie and Friends**  
Abbey Green, Ramsey
- 29th + 30th Festival of Flowers**  
St Mary's Church
- 30th Bands on the Green**  
*Chatteris Town Band*  
Abbey Green, Ramsey

For more information, please visit:  
[discoverramsey.co.uk/events](http://discoverramsey.co.uk/events)

Warboys Reporter C.I.C. in writing at the following address:  
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### ITS A GOOD MONTH FOR

## TANNING

Temperatures soared to record levels, leading people to abandon their homes and head to the parks

### ITS A BAD MONTH FOR

## ALLERGIES

Hay fever sufferers were caught in some of the highest pollen counts of the year.



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# Ramsey Mortuary Chapel unveils new memorial

A new memorial dedicated to Ramsey residents who lost their lives during World War Two bombing runs was unveiled last month at the Ramsey Mortuary Chapel.

Dedicated to the eight residents who lost their lives when Ramsey was bombed in 1944, the memorial was donated to the Friends of the Mortuary Chapel by Swearers Funeral Directors in Ramsey.

The memorial was unveiled by Cllr Adela Costello, County Councillor and Deputy Mayor of Ramsey, who is a long-time supporter of the Friends group. Cllr Costello also presented Jane Yardley, Chair of the Friends group, with a final cheque for £945 raised by the mayoral charity last year, taking the total raised to £1945 over Cllr Costello's two years in office.



Also in attendance was Cllr Doug McIlwain, current Mayor of Ramsey, who laid a wreath with Jane Yardley during the service. Rev. Richard Darmody also led a short service, which included a reading of the victims names and a prayer.

Dignitaries and attendees later mingled in the adjoining room, which has been renovated, and enjoyed sandwiches and displays relating to the history of the chapel and the Ramsey bombing.





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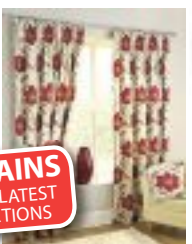
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## news



## NEW SPAR SITE MEETS MIXED REACTION

The newly relocated Spar store in Warboys has been met with praise and criticism from residents, with the new interior a highlight while parking and road-crossing have become an issue.

The store, which occupies the site of a former hardware shop, opened its doors on Friday 2nd June with an improved food service and Post Office offering.

As well as everyday essentials including bread, milk and fresh fruit and vegetables, the store features an in store bakery and SPAR's Daily Deli food service range, which offers freshly prepared hot and cold snacks and meals all day.

Following the closure of the main Post Office in Warboys, the new Post Office located in SPAR will offer the local community a counter service till plus main Post Office counter with services including postal services, cash deposits and withdrawals, Euros and Dollars on demand, car tax and savings accounts.

In addition, the store has been fitted with a lifesaving defibrillator which will provide CPR to members of the Warboys community. The extended range of services on offer, as well as the fresh, modern look of the interior, have been extensively commented on by local residents, with several taking to social media to express their views.

Store Manager Simon Smedley added: "On behalf of the team at SPAR Warboys, I would



like to welcome the local community to our improved store. With a new food service and Post Office offering and an extensive range of everyday essentials, meal ideas and fresh foods, our store provides something for everyone."

However, District Councillor Peter Bucknell noted at last month's meeting of the full Warboys Parish Council that he had received several complaints with reference to the limited parking at the new Spar shop. He reminded everyone that as Cambridgeshire County Highways had objected to the planning application on highway grounds, while Huntingdonshire District Council had refused planning permission in 2012 on grounds of traffic safety. An appeal had been lodged and the Government's Planning Inspectorate had allowed the appeal and granted planning permission in 2013.

## UVH celebrates a decade

Upwood Village Hall Performing Arts Events is celebrating ten years of events with a series of concerts this Autumn.

Tickets are now on sale for four concerts, beginning with a multi-award-winning folk duo Ninebarrow on Thursday 14th September. This is followed on Friday 20th October by Chris While & Julie Matthews, back by popular demand after a stunning 2016 performance.

November sees one of the busiest live performers on the UK folk and acoustic music scene visiting the hall. Jez Lowe, a brilliant singer/songwriter and raconteur, is joined by Kate Bramley on Thursday November 16th. The season is then closed on Thursday 7th December by Johnny Coppin, who will be bringing his popular



Christmas show, "All on a Winter's Night" back to the hall alongside multi-instrumentalist Paul Burgess and guitarist Dik Cadbury. Tickets are £11.00 for Ninebarrow, £12.50 for both Jez Lowe and Chris While & Julie Matthews, and £13.00 for Johnny Coppin. All those interested can contact the UVH box office at 07709 930398 or pndmcleod@btinternet.com

## THE GREAT FEN

# A time to celebrate

By Mandy Corney – Great Fen

The Great Fen is currently evaluating all the work that has been achieved during the last eight years of its Heritage Lottery Funding period. Those eight years have amounted to many wonderful achievements, so much so that the Great Fen has been awarded recognition by being one of the six finalists in the "Best environment Project" of the National Lottery Awards 2017!

The National Lottery Awards are an annual search to find the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects, and they aim to celebrate and recognise the difference that those projects have made to people, places and communities all across the UK.

### Not slowing down

Although the Great Fen's lottery funding period has now come to an end, this by no means, means that the commitment of the Great Fen team will be slowing down. From its amazing conservation projects, working with local graziers on the mosaics of land areas, involvement with the local

community with regard to memories and dementia, blind and stroke associations, clubs and organisations, as well as thousands of children with our education service, family events ... the list is endless. All this has come about from the formation of the Great Fen.

Indeed it is a time to celebrate and spread the word about this amazing living landscape for nature and people to enjoy.

Keep an eye on our website for details of how to vote for us [www.greatfen.org](http://www.greatfen.org) and check out [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/) awards.

Picture courtesy of G900 Photography



## St Mary's prepares for busy July

A number of events are scheduled this month at Ramsey St Mary's Church, including a flower festival and an art exhibition.

Festivities begin on Saturday July 1st, with an exhibition of art created by the pupils of nearby Ashbeach School. Held between 2:00 and 5:00 in the afternoon, visitors will be asked to vote for their favourite piece, with a presentation of prizes held at the school on Monday July 3rd.

Alongside the children's pictures will be a selection of paintings by local artist Derek Massey, who will be holding a talk his life and art from 7:30. Alongside examples of his wonderful work, which has included murals and sculptures in the local area, Mr Massey will be guiding his audience through his artistic journey, peppered with tales from his unique life story. There will also be an announcement of the results of the vote. With tickets priced at £7.50, the evening also included complimentary drinks and other refreshments.

At the end of month, St Mary's Church is also planning a floral tribute to the 1940's with 'We'll Meet Again', a festival of flowers held throughout the village. With gardens opening between 10am and 5pm on both

Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th, there will also be tea and cakes available, alongside a plant stall and bric-a-brac.

All funds raised will go to the upkeep of the church, so why not turn up and enjoy the flowers safe in the knowledge you're giving to a good cause? For more information on all these events and many more, head to [www.discoverramsey.co.uk](http://www.discoverramsey.co.uk)

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## news



## Ramsey Market in New Hands

By Carol Aston – RNT Chair

Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust (RNT) are very proud and thrilled to announce that we are in the process of receiving the Ramsey Market Charter from Ramsey Town Council. RNT is delighted to be adding the market charter to our ever growing list of projects which include supporting Ramsey Million, Ramsey Phoenix Project, Job Search and the Ramsey Neighbourhood News. We would also like to thank The Ramsey Initiative for all their hard work managing the market charter over previous years.

RNT would ultimately love to expand the current Saturday market and run speciality events but we can't do this on our own, and it won't happen overnight .... We have lots of ideas but it's very early days. RNT realises that markets have changed over-time to reflect modern shopping habits so our market may need to develop away from that of the traditional market format.

Everything RNT does aims to make Ramsey a better place for all who live, work, volunteer or visit here so - in true community development style - we want to hear views

of Ramsey residents on what you would like to see happen to your market. We have set up a new email for you to email us all your thoughts - [ramsey.rntoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ramsey.rntoffice@gmail.com) or you can contact us at the Neighbourhood Office.

Two events we can definitely confirm are the return of the very successful Craft Festival on 23rd September and the ever popular Christmas Lights Switch On 25th November. There are another couple of ideas in the pipeline and we'll let you know once they are confirmed.

On another note we will be launching 'Your Neighbourhood Office' shortly - this will be the one stop shop to find out about all the projects we are working on in and around Ramsey. We look forward to working with all the local organisations, businesses and residents. So look out for further details.

For more information about Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust please contact us. The Neighbourhood Office, 25 Great Whyte, Ramsey PE26 1HG  
Telephone: 01487 814897  
Email: [rntchair@gmail.com](mailto:rntchair@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.ramseneighbourhoodstrust.org](http://www.ramseneighbourhoodstrust.org)

## Local businesses scoop awards bonanza

Three local independent businesses have walked away with top prizes in this year's Muddy Stiletto Business Awards.

Ramsey Great Whyte is home to two of the winners, with Wild Frost garnering twice the percentage of votes than their closest competitor to win Best Florist while the Windmill Bakery held off tough competition from Breckland Orchard in Babraham to take victory in the Local Producer (Food and Drink) category. Elsewhere, Johnsons of Oldhurst polled 50% to win in the Farmshop Deli Category.

In a message congratulating winners and finalists on their website, Muddy Stiletto commented: "The response to the Awards

this year has been incredible, with up to 100,000 people per day voting across the Muddy Stiletto sites. The ethos of Muddy Stiletto is all about celebrating and supporting the most unique, interesting, brilliant lifestyle businesses and we hope that we've helped to shine a light on the amazing talent in our region".

'Happy dances' seemed to be the order of the day, with both the Windmill and Wild Frost winners describing their reaction on Facebook, including Louise from Wild Frost who thanked customers in her post, saying "We literally can't thank you all enough! Me and Sally did a happy dance when we found out".

## Bury Parish Council

Peter Hazell - Chairman

### JUNE MEETING

June's meeting was attended by seven Parish councillors, District councillors, the newly elected County councillor and one member of the public.

The police report (via eCops) has indicated a number of concerns in the village. These include the ongoing problems of trespassers on the RAF Upwood site with some 15/20 cars parked at the entrance on 7th May; more people entering the site with rucksacks on the 11th May; some on the roof on the 14th May and fighting between two males on the 21st May. There have also been cold callers acting suspiciously in the village and problems on the Hill Estate. The police have warned residents to be alert and if you see anyone acting suspiciously to call them.

#### New Bench

A new bench is to be installed in The Pound (junction of Owls End and Tunkers Lane) to replace the previous one which is beginning to rust.

This was presented to the village by the Bury Ladies Club and the plaque will be fixed to the new one.

#### Vision for Bury

The Neighbourhood Plan committee continue to meet and has produced a "Vision for Bury", and among its aims will be to "preserve our village identity and existing characteristics".

Speedwatch has two new volunteers and is also receiving volunteers from neighbouring villages so that the equipment can be used more often in Bury, but don't forget "the more the merrier". So contact us on [csw@gmail.com](mailto:csw@gmail.com).

#### SPEEDWATCH NEEDS YOU

Finally the milestone, which was damaged when a car hit it, on the Warboys Road has been repaired and replaced in its original position.

Such milestones are of historical value and importance and have listed status, so it was important to retain it.

The next meeting will be on  
Wednesday 5th July at 7.30pm  
in Bury village hall.

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## news



Classic paintings such as *The Last Supper* were displayed with innovation

## Flower Festival best ever

With more visitors, more displays and more money raised, the St Thomas a Becket Flower Group put on an extraordinary Flower Festival which has been hailed as a huge success.

Held between June 9th and June 11th, the festival delighted visitors with over 25 displays, not including windowsill arrangements, leaving the church festooned with flowers.

Onlookers were invited to 'Picture This', with all 26 displays relating to famous works of art spanning centuries, including floral takes on Klimt's *Kiss*, Da Vinci's *Last Supper* and Banksy's *Love is in the Air*.

Despite inclement weather, plus the ongoing church repairs throwing a literal spanner in the works, the weekend attracted hundreds and raised £1565, all of which will go towards the church funds.

In a thank you note to supporters, the Becket Flower Group noted: "We couldn't do it without your help so thank you once again and we hope to see you next year, what could the title be!"

*Photos courtesy of Ann Cuthbert*



Modern works, such as this *BANKSY* arrangement, also featured prominently



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## community

## BENWICK BANTER

By Jill Hindle



Alex Glen and her spinning wheel.

The Benwick Exhibition held on Sunday 21st May was very well attended, receiving excellent comments and a request for a repeat in years to come.

The event was organised by Jill Hindle and the Benwick in Bloom team with photographs from Janet Fountain's



MP Stephen Barclay, Jill Hindle and Janet Fountain

private collection.

There were table top sales and a demonstration by Alex Glen with her spinning wheel. Marie Andrew provided refreshments and funds raised from the sales and a raffle will go towards planters and flowers in the village.

## BENWICK IN BLOOM



Latest project in situ in Lilyholt Road – A three tier self-watering container, planted with pink and white trailing petunias.

The Planter was paid for from part of the funding from the Burnt House Wind fund.

- CRIME -  
REPORTER

## YOUR OPINIONS REVEALED

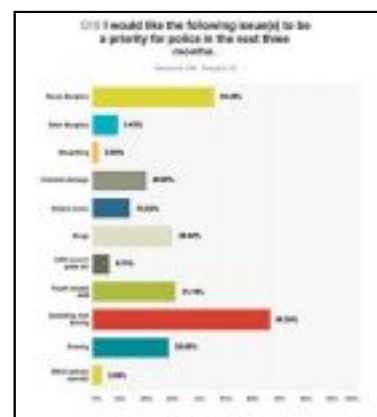
Last month, the St Ives policing team drew up and distributed an online survey designed to give residents of Ramsey and the surrounding villages the opportunity to let police know their views and opinions on crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities and how they feel policing is carried out locally.

The survey gave people the opportunity to say what they felt local policing priorities should be, within the framework of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's overall objectives and what other concerns or worries about crime and policing they may have.

In a message on Ecops, PSV Chris Shaw commented "In the two-week period that the survey was open, 283 questionnaires were completed and sent in – a really excellent response! Thank you to everyone who took the time to do the survey and let us know your views and opinions."

The survey is part of the Constabulary's Community Engagement Programme and

was followed up by a Police/Community Forum Meeting at Ramsey Methodist Church on June 21 chaired by Sgt Andy Street, who gave a presentation on the findings of the survey and was able to answer several questions from the audience.

- FRAUD -  
WATCH

## WEDDINGS...?

With the upcoming Wedding Season hitting Ramsey and its many marital businesses, residents should be aware of the potential risks of fraud involved.

According to 'bridesmagazine.co.uk', in 2017 the average wedding cost spend is approximately £30,111. This will be paid out to multiple vendors, including; photographers, caterers, reception venues and travel companies, to name a few. Many of these services will require booking at least several months in advance and you may be obliged to pay a deposit or even the full balance at the time.

Being aware of the potential risks and following the below prevention advice could minimise the likelihood of fraud:

- Paying by Credit Card will provide you with protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act, for purchases above £100 and below £30,000. This means that even if a Company goes into liquidation before your big day, you could claim a refund through your Credit Card Company.

- Social Media - Some Companies run their businesses entirely via social media sites, offering low cost services. Whilst many are genuine, some may not be insured or may even be fraudulent. There are a few things you can do to protect yourself;



- Consider purchasing Wedding Insurance - Policies vary in cover and can be purchased up to two years in advance. They can protect you from events that would not be covered under the Consumer Credit Act.

- Complete research on each vendor, ensuring you are dealing with a bona fide person or company. Explore the internet for reviews and ratings and ask the vendor to provide details of past clients you can speak to. You should do this even if using companies recommended by a trustworthy friend or source.

For services such as wedding photographers, beware of websites using fake images. Look for inconsistencies in style; Meet the photographer in person and ask to view sample albums. If you like an image from a wedding, ask to view the photographs taken of the whole event so you can see the overall quality.

Remember, if something appears too good to be true, it probably is!

# The Mad Cat Beer & Cider Festival is back again!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to taste 10 real ales and 6 scrumpy-style ciders!

## 27th - 31st July 2017

**Top quality live music** all weekend from Thursday night, Friday night and all day Saturday, not forgetting **The Baker Benson 16 piece Big Band** on Sunday afternoon from 3pm.



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## community



**RAMSEY  
MILLION**

# CREATE-FEST BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Following on from their 2015 success, Create-Fest returns with an improved line-up and even more on offer!

It's all go for Ramsey's festival event of the summer!

The creative and music festival is back due to popular demand, with traders, musicians, entertainers, rides, refreshments, community groups and more lined up to be a part of this fantastic event!

### What to expect

As with the crowd-pleasing 2015 event, CREATE-FEST is bringing back attractions to suit everyone, from bouncy castles and inflatables for the kids to adrenaline rush activities such as, and we're not making this up, a rodeo sheep!

Aquatically minded visitors will also love the sim surfboard, which is a Ramsey first, while food and drinks will be provided by local establishments such as Milkshake Junction and the Sandwich Bar.

### On Site

As for stalls, its 'the more, the merrier' as almost every conceivable town treat lines up. There will be preserves, sweets, plants, dream catchers, local artists work, cakes, of course, home-made and professional crafts available to purchase.

The area is coming together to support this event, including the ever-popular Ramsey Crafters group, who have been preparing their goods at weekly meetings.

Also on hand is the Down2Earth farm shop, which has enjoyed a boost with UnLtd funding allowing it to interact with the community at events such as this.



Voluntary organisations and heritage groups will also be taking advantage of the camp-site, including a Tombola run by Ramsey Mortuary Chapel.

### Musical extravaganza

This is all before the music begins! As you can see from the page opposite, CREATE-FEST is packed with local artists and nationally touring groups.

All the regular Ramsey favourites are on hand, including Railway stalwarts 'The Boatmen', everyone's favourite small instrument players 'The Upwood Ukuleles'

and rockers '10 O'Clock Curfew', who will be closing out the afternoon session.

### Where to go exactly?

CREATE-FEST is being held on the 1940's Camp in Wood Lane, and is completely, totally and utterly free to enter, and with free shuttle buses running from the town centre there is no excuse but to head along!

## WARM UP WITH THE BACKROOM ACOUSTIC CLUB

As part of the build up to CREATE-Fest, the Railway's own Backroom Acoustic Club will be coming to intimate venues around Ramsey in the week before the event, building up to the climatic music and crafts festival.

Some of Ramsey's best known businesses will be hosting, with Milkshake Junction and Wild Frost both opening their doors for one-off concerts alongside a special afternoon session being held on Friday 14th between 12:00 and 2:00pm in the open air on Great Whyte.

Fans of the regular Railway event need not worry, as the series is timed to include the regular slot on the second Wednesday of the month, in this case the 12th.

The sessions have been organised by The Boatmen's David Bailey and all acoustic events will be free of charge to enter. A full list of dates and times can be found on page 2.



# CREATE - FEST FREE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Celebrate - Create - Enjoy!

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**11.30am - 6pm & 7pm - 10pm**

**The Camp, Wood Lane, Ramsey PE26 2XW**

We have attractions and music to suit everyone including live bands, food, bar, stalls, bouncy castles, adrenaline rush and much, much more.

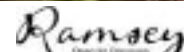
Don't worry if it's wet we've thought of that too - we'll just move inside the Drill Hall.

For more details, to book a pitch or sponsor an act ...

Contact: Neighbourhood Office, 25 Great Whyte, Ramsey, PE26 2XB

Telephone: 01487 814897

Email: [ramsey.createfest@gmail.com](mailto:ramsey.createfest@gmail.com) or [ann.cuthbert@camsacre.org.uk](mailto:ann.cuthbert@camsacre.org.uk)



Sponsored by



CREATE - FEST

# MUSIK FESTIVAL

**SAT 15TH  
JULY 2017**

**Lineup Announced!**

**FESTIVAL STAGE**

**THE CAMP**  
WOOD LANE  
RAMSEY PE26 2XW

**12:00 - RAMSEY COMMUNITY JUNIOR SCHOOL CHOIR**

Kicking off the day are pupils from Ramsey Junior School, opening the festival with all the energy and spirit you would expect.

**12:30 - UPWOOD UKELELES**

This lively and unique bunch have been performing and raising money in Cambridgeshire for years, and are sure to get you tapping your feet!

**1:00 - IAN 'ROSIE' ROSE**

It's our 1940's favourite, back in his pearly best to offer a cockney-flavoured sing-along at a site he's performed in the past.

**1:30 - FRANCESCA TERRONI SCHOOL OF DANCE**

One of the most popular dance schools in the area, Francesca Terroni's boys and girls offer a mix of traditional ballet styles and more contemporary dance

**2:00 - THE BOATMEN**

This acoustic duo have been performing for years, and enjoy rocking out to music of all genres.

**2:30 - OFFICIAL OPENING**

Shailesh Vara MP takes the stage alongside Doug McIlwayne, Mayor of Ramsey, to officially open the event

**2:45 - URBAN DANCE ACADEMY**

Ramsey's street-dance specialists always draw a crowd, with routines that have garnered cheers at the Christmas Lights, Carnival and Town Fete in the last 12 months alone.

**3:15 - THE HARMONICA MAN**

Coming to Create-Fest for his debut performance, this local artist is, as expected, a singer with his harmonica!

**3:45 - ACID RAIN**

Formed by Abbey College Alumni, Acid Rain

**4:15 - MADDISON PAULEY**

The constantly rising star of the fenland music scene, Chatteris' youngest singer is becoming a sensation - catch her here before she starts selling out arenas!

**4:30 - HOLLY & THE BOATMEN**

The Boatmen are back, this time accompanied by the singer/songwriter Holly: expect original music alongside classic covers

**5:00 - 10 O'CLOCK CURFEW**

The afternoon headlines, this versatile five-piece local band wowed residents at last year's Gaiety event. Expect an astonishingly diverse mix of genre, from slow ballads to lively dance numbers sure to bring the crowd to their feet.

**6:00 - BREAK (1 HR)**

Giving the headliners time to move in, this break is a good chance to grab a drink from the Drill Hall bar!

## HEADLINERS

**7:00 - WISE NAIVE**

Offering their own original music, this Peterborough based band provides a wide range of genre styles from funk to rock, soul to pop. Currently, they are the house band at Rocket Park Studios in Peterborough, and ply their trade at local shows, festivals and private events.

**8:00 - THE GUV'NORS**

The Guv'nors play classic rock from the sixties and seventies, with a dash of Blues, Soul and Rock n Roll thrown in

**9:00 - ROCK Q**

Closing the evening is an hour-long set from this authentic four-piece Queen tribute act, who have wowed crowds up and down the country. They will be playing all the hits you remember from the 70's and 80's, complete with the costumes and mannerisms that made Queen the legends they are today.

As their slogan suggests, "This is what you wanted, this is what you're gonna get!"



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## community



## NATIONAL ROTARY KIDSOUT DAY 2017

How do you entertain around 2,400 children in one day? By organising a massive excursion to Wicksteed Park. Each year The Rotary Club of Ramsey join forces with neighbouring clubs across the East Midlands which form our District 1070. This is mirrored throughout the country as part of the National Rotary KidsOut Day in partnership with KidsOut "The Fun & Happiness Charity" <http://www.kidsout.org.uk>

This year was a massive success, involving some 47 children and staff from Ashbeach Primary, Ramsey Juniors, Ramsey Spinning Infants and Warboys Primary schools, accompanied by 5 Ramsey Rotarians: President Chris Wick, Maggie Furniss, Sylvia Abblitt, Carole & Sarah Broom. In addition, a further 13 Young carers & staff & 17 children & staff from the Abbey College also attended.

Here are just two of the lovely thank you's we have received:

### Thank you from Abbey College:

Thank you for the amazing day the Rotary Club provided for our students yesterday. They had a wonderful time.

Please give our grateful thanks for the fantastic lunches and especially for the extra drinks. We had told our students to bring lots of drink but in the heat that had quickly been drunk.

As we use the mini bus we do not leave until about 3pm which means we have an hour when the queues are not as long.

We were very proud of our students yesterday, we had one young man who pushed his friend's wheelchair across much of the park.

Thank you once again, Mrs Marian Bramley, HLTA and Form Tutor for HMB.

### Thank you from Upwood school:

Just wanted to say that my 5 children have had a brilliant time at Wicksteed today and I am very grateful to you for sorting the event out, as they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Long may it continue! Thanks again, Lindsey Clarke, Deputy Head Teacher, Upwood Primary School.



Looking a little damp



Getting ready to jump? Or fall in?



Pushing off for a paddle



All aboard!



Will that train ever arrive?



Up, up and away!



Are we having fun? You bet we are!!



President Chris Wick, wife Carol and friend Shani Charlton with just a few of the many, very happy children.

## ROTARY YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER 2017

Each year Rotary organise a Competition for budding Young Photographers to compete in.

This year Ramsey excelled in having two winners in Samuel Davies achieving 2nd place in the Junior section and winning best overall Photograph - congratulations Samuel. He received his award at a ceremony at De Montford University on June 17th.

Jesse Howell won 3rd place for his photograph and will



Young Photographer Samuel Davies receiving his prize, witnessed by his Mum Sally

receive his award in the very near future. Many congratulations to Jesse for this recognition of his efforts.

# Grass seeds season has started!

It's a problem we see every summer and the first few cases of this year have already come through our doors.

Grass seeds present a potential hazard to dogs from June until September. Dry sunny spells see a greater number of seeds falling to the ground where they can be picked up by our pets.

Grass seeds vary in size, but all are like mini 'darts' with fine hairs and a sharp point at one end. The sharp point can easily pierce the skin especially where the skin is thinner such as between a dog's toes. Because the seeds have tiny 'micro barbs' they do not just drop out of the skin; this is what makes them a potentially complicated problem to deal with.



The most common affected area are dog's paws but they can also get into eyes, ears and can even be snorted up noses. We have seen some rare cases where a grass seed has managed to penetrate the skin in different areas of the body, such as the ribcage.

If a grass seed enters through the skin of your dog's paw, this is highly irritating and can become quite sore. Your dog will usually start licking its paw excessively, there may be a red lump between their toes and they may start limping. It is important to seek veterinary advice as soon as you see these symptoms. Grass seeds will continue to migrate into your dog's

paw, and can travel a considerable way if not found. It has been known for seeds to travel all the way up a dog's limb and into the chest.

Sometimes the tail of the grass seed can be seen sticking out of the swelling between your dog's toes and a vet or owner can remove the seed easily. If the seed has travelled deeper into the tissue, sedation is required to hunt for it. Prompt action is important – it is far easier to find a grass seed close to the skin's surface than one that has penetrated deeper.

If your dog suddenly starts to shake their head after a walk, this might indicate a grass seed in their ear canal. This requires prompt attention, because seeds can travel towards the ear drum and cause problems there.

Cats can get grass seeds in their eyes and ears, but this is generally uncommon.



Keeping the hair on your dog's paws short, checking ears and paws after a walk and avoiding long dry grass whenever possible are good ways to reduce the chances of an irritating encounter with a grass seed.



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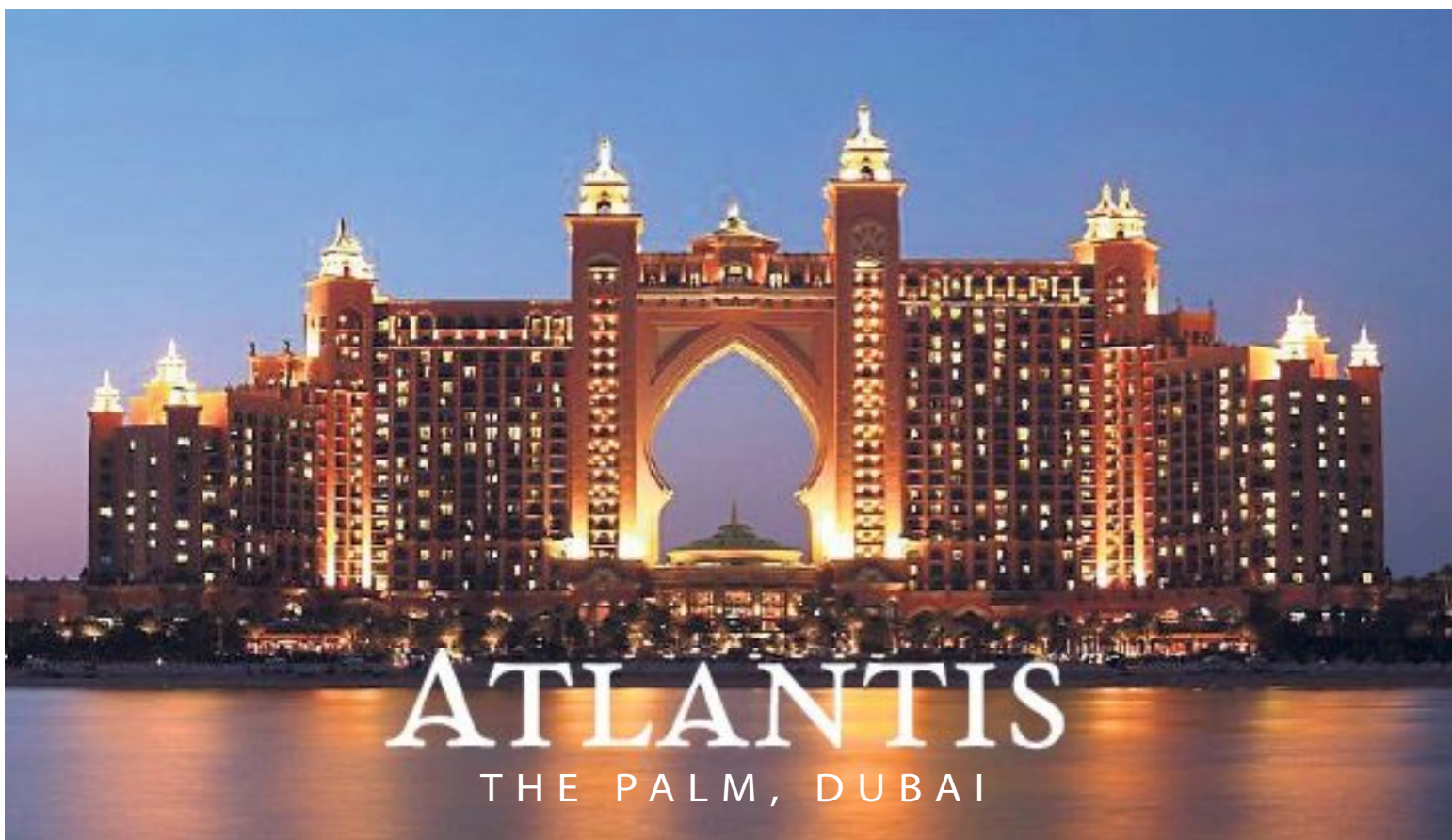
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Kids Club provides the ultimate for little ones aged 3 to 12 years. Kids will have fun for hours, as they explore the playgrounds, play the latest video games, and build in the creation zones. Club Rush is the ideal hangout for those aged 13 to 18. There is an internet cafe and cocktail bar just for them. The Zone is a state of the art arcade featuring the latest in Full Motion Simulators.

One of the many reasons people choose to holiday at the Atlantis the Palm is the Aquaventure Waterpark. Discover an underwater world at The Lost Chambers Aquarium or meet the mammals at Dolphin Bay and Sea Lion Point. You can even go diving or snorkeling in the aquarium. All guests receive complimentary entry to the waterpark. With rivers, rapids, waves, slides, dumping buckets, pools, a shark lagoon and a private beach there's something for the whole family to enjoy. Speed your way down 7 pulse-racing water slides, including 2 which take you through the Shark Lagoon. There's also a children's play area with 10 slides, 2 dumping buckets, rope bridges, water jets, cannons and climbing frames to explore and enjoy. Younger children will also love Splashers, the family interactive



play-structure.

Atlantis the Palm has some of the best restaurants in Dubai, with over 23 restaurants and some of the world's best chefs. From family friendly to fine dining each restaurant has its own character and charm. Enjoy a lavish breakfast, lunch or dinner buffet featuring an extensive variety of international and local cuisine. Restaurant choices include Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Lebanese, Italian and Tex-Mex. There is a Steakhouse, seafood restaurant, a burger bar and Gordon Ramsay's Gastropub. Outdoor dining is available with a choice of eating at the beach, by the pool, on a quiet terrace or in a secluded garden.

At Atlantis the Palm, you can party on the beach or dance the night away to the hottest international artists and DJs around. Nasimi Beach boasts a great location overlooking the beach and the lights of the Dubai skyline. Discover the perfect mix of cosmopolitan crowds and the best beach dance floor. N'Dulge is the perfect place to party all night, with its suspended catwalk and outdoor terrace. Nobu's Bar and Lounge offers a vibrant atmosphere to compliment your cocktails

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## community

## Ramsey WI June 2017

On the 23rd of May we boarded "The Ladybird" and set off for St Ives. It was a beautiful day and with such a friendly and knowledgeable crew we even learnt a thing or two. We shared locks with shiny new boats and smiled at the renters trying to keep their boats straight. But why is it always the women who get off the boat to open and close locks while the men steer? We saw thatched cottages, quaint little country churches, the swans and the beautiful meadows near the Dolphin in St Ives. Is it true that the hay from these fields feed the Queens horses? Junes monthly meeting was members night, an evening organised by the members not the committee, and what a great evening it was. First we watched the DVD of the excavation of a Spitfire that crashed into the fens over 75 years ago.

Spitfire X4593 of 266 Rhodesian Squadron Royal Air Force, was based at RAF Wittering; on 22 November 1940 the plane crashed near Holme Lode Farm, Holme. At the controls for what was intended to be a routine training flight was Pilot Officer Harold Penketh. During a climb to altitude with two other Spitfires he was seen to break formation entering a dive from which he failed to fully recover.

20 year old Harold Penketh had only 13 hours flying experience on spitfires.

Harold Penketh's body was recovered from the wreck of his Spitfire and returned to his home town of Brighton. Investigation concluded that either a failure of the oxygen system or a physical failure had occurred.

The excavation began in the week of 5 October, 2015 and was carried out by Oxford Archaeology East. The remains of the Spitfire have initially gone to the Pathfinder Museum at RAF Wyton for storage, conservation and preservation with the long term aim of presenting the remains in the Great Fen Visitor Centre.

Then the important part of the evening, the buffet; everyone had taken in a small plate full of food to share, some ladies have bigger "small plates" than I have so there was plenty to go round and even leftovers. All washed down with Bucks fizz, fruit juice, or even a cup of tea. Then we had a quiz and a guess the photo competition. All in all a very good evening's entertainment, well done the ladies who organised all this.

On the 27th of June we are off to Cromer for the day, more on this later. **Our next monthly meeting is July 10th it's a Spanish evening with a cookery demonstration so come along and see if Ramsey WI is just the thing for you.**



## Abbey WI

## 'Homes and Gardens' comes to Bury

The ladies of Abbey W.I. were entertained at their June meeting by an interior designer with the deliciously sounding name of Yasmin Chopin. Yasmin runs a consultancy service which gives on the spot advice to customers with problems such as how to make a room appear lighter or bigger than it actually is. Yasmin, together with several informative slides, let us into some of her "tricks of the trade"; for example, always get samples of colours, fabrics, wallpaper etc. to see them in situ with the different light changes; using see through furniture e.g. a glass topped table gives the impression of a bigger space; decorating inside cupboards with see through doors to give added interest; use pattern to create movement. We were invited to go "bonkers" and open our minds to different possibilities with the use of colour. It was a thought provoking talk inviting the ladies to see the rooms in their homes in an unusual way. Ramsey paint company may well be besieged by members waving paint charts in unusual colour combinations in a bid to be "with it". The competition of a decorated plate was judged by Yasmin and won by Pam Linnington with Susan Avery second.

## 1940s theme

You may remember that last month I mentioned the approaching group meeting to be run by Ramsey St. Marys at the Drill Hall with a 1940s theme. A number of Abbey members attended this excellent evening dressed appropriately and were entertained by a singing couple with songs from that era and refreshed with cups of tea in beautiful authentic china, slices of bread pudding and Victoria sandwich! Thankfully not a spam sandwich in sight!! A valuable opportunity to meet and mingle with ladies from other W.I.'s.

A couple of Abbey W.I. members attended the Annual General Meeting this year in Liverpool. There was ample opportunity to see what the city had to offer including an evening visit to the legendary Cavern Club, before attending the AGM the next day. The singing of Jerusalem by 5,000 attendees is awe inspiring. Both resolutions (one on alleviating loneliness and the other

marine wildlife. Another resolution was also passed with 69.3% of the vote, 'Alleviating Loneliness'. It seeks to ensure that people who are lonely, or at risk of loneliness, are identified at the earliest possible opportunity to enable them to access the appropriate support and assistance.

The day ended as the Echo Arena rocked to the sound of the Mersey Beat with WI members literally dancing in the aisles!

Federation Denman Visit - Every eighteen months members from this area make a pilgrimage to the WI College in Oxfordshire. On the 9th June members set off for Denman, situated in the idyllic village location of Marcham, a peaceful location to get together and learn new skills. Some chose to take advantage of the fabulous facilities of the cookery school and made an array of delicious breads. Those with a creative bent chose between silk ribbon embroidery, watercolours or polymer clay jewellery. Others chose to learn about the beautiful Cotswolds including a whistle-stop tour of the area.

The WI really does have something for everyone.

**To find out more or to locate a WI near you visit: [www.thewi.org.uk](http://www.thewi.org.uk)**

## Ramsey St Mary's WI

2017 NFWI Annual Meeting - Early June saw the city of Liverpool invaded by WI members from all over England and Wales. The 2017 Annual Meeting of the National Federation of WIs was held at the Echo Arena in Liverpool on Wednesday 7 June. The meeting was attended by approximately 4,300 members and guests including a coach load of delegates from this area. The Mayor of Liverpool delivered a warm welcome and members were treated to a day of debate and two inspiring guest speakers. Jo Fairley, author and co-founder of Green & Black's Organic Chocolate and the UK's youngest-ever magazine editor. She also spoke about her latest venture 'The Perfume Society'. Susie Dent, author and resident dictionary expert on Countdown, told the audience about her love of words and her fascination with their origins.

Delegates voted to pass two resolutions, which will both now form the basis of new NFWI campaigns. 'Plastic soup: Keep microplastic fibres out of our oceans' was passed with 98.9% of the vote. Microplastic fibres are released from synthetic clothing every time it is washed. As they are so small they aren't caught by filtration equipment and can end up in our oceans where they are ingested by

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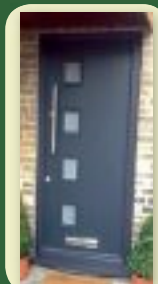


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on microfibres in our oceans) after really useful discussions were passed so we will see where action on both topics takes us.

By the time you read this we will have run our stall at the Thomas A Becket fete and hopefully sold some of you a raffle ticket for our luxury hamper and tempted you with marmalade, scones, shortbread etc. all for sale, to help raise funds for our Institute. We have a trip to a beautiful Somersham garden and later to Wimpole Hall planned for this summer, after the ever-popular coffee mornings, tea and chat, book club and craft club. If you would like to come along and see what Abbey W.I. gets up to you would be made very welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month in Bury village hall at 2:00pm. July's speaker is "From bus pass to student card" - tantalising. The competition is an unusual piece of kitchen equipment.

**For further details ring Karen Prestage, President of Abbey W.I. on 01487 813848**



feature

# FETE FUN FOR A

## Hugely successful 2017 St Thomas a Becket town fete



Lady de Ramsey officially opened the fete, following a minutes silence led by the Mayor of Ramsey, who paid tribute to those effected by the Grenfell Tower Fire and by recent terrorist activity, and a prayer by Lay Minister Rachel Harris



The fete also offered an opportunity to promote the work of local organisation such as the Ramsey Neighbourhoods Trust, seen here advertising their latest News magazine and upcoming events, such as CREATE-FEST



Local schoolchildren formed a major part of the entertainment, which included a choral group and a further dance troupe. Later entertainment was provided by the Urban Dance Academy

feature

# ALL THE FAMILY

brings the local community together in song and sun...



Upwood Ukuleles were on fine form as they opened proceedings, complete with kazoo accompaniment during a surprising rendition of Tom Jones' Delilah and a sing-along by the crowd.



Many local residents brought along their four-legged family members to compete in the dog show, with entrants ranging from the smallest terrier to the biggest retriever, and all in between!



Activities included several shop stalls, including a model stand, and the iconic Fenland Light Railway, who took children for free up and down the Abbey Green



Local organisations were well represented with stalls stretching across the green. These included heritage organisations, including Ramsey Mortuary Chapel, and voluntary groups such as Abbey WI



Di Pitts, committed chairperson, braved the shave to raise over £1000 for charity, with Ramsey's local barber Dizzy doing the honours in the middle of the fete. At time of print, di's pledge to cut those curly locks has raised more than £1700, all going to the Friends of North Kigezi Diocese.



AFTER

## community



## Summer at Ramsey Library

It's that time of year again and Cambridgeshire Libraries are gearing up for the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge. This year the theme is Animal Agents illustrated by Tony Ross. The challenge is for children aged 4-11 years to read 6 books over the 6 week holiday and collect a sticker for each book they read. There are activities and listening sessions taking place in the library to encourage and inspire the children and in September, when the challenge finishes, those children who have read 6 books will be invited to a presentation evening to receive a medal and a certificate. Over 750,000 children took part in the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge.

Want to join in? Visit your local library from Saturday 15th July and sign up or talk to a member of staff at Ramsey Library for more

details.

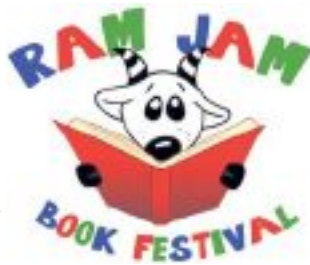
### Volunteering Opportunities for children aged 12-16 years.

Wanted children aged 12-16 years to help with the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library. Your role would be to listen to the children talk about the books they have read, assist with crafts, give out stickers, fill in registration cards and help at the medal ceremony.

If you are interested please contact [Naomi.peel@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Naomi.peel@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) or [Sarah.sheldon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.sheldon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

### Closing date 1st July

Note the date! Ram Jam children's book festival will be taking place on Saturday 14th October and more details will be available at a later time.



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## RAMSEY WALLED GARDEN RECIPE OF THE MONTH



## STRAWBERRY TART

This is a scrummy strawberry tart. It is lovely with the double cream and full fat yoghurt, so enjoy and don't worry about the calories for once!

Preheat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4

### FOR THE PASTRY

200gm plain flour  
110 gm cold butter cut into cubes  
65gm caster sugar  
¼ teasp salt

### FOR THE FILLING

200ml whipping or double cream  
200 ml thick whole milk yoghurt  
2 tsp icing sugar  
A few drops of vanilla essence  
500 gm of strawberries

### METHOD

1. To make pastry put all the ingredients in a food processor and process until it forms fine crumbs. This will take about a minute. Tip the mixture into a 25cm tart tin, preferably loose-bottomed. Press with a mug or glass until you have formed a pastry case. Put in the freezer for 15 minutes.
2. Remove from the freezer and prick the base all over with a fork. Bake for 20-25 minutes until light brown. Cool in the tin.
3. When the pastry case is cool, whip the cream to soft peaks and add the sugar and vanilla. Fold in the yoghurt. Put in the tart tin and smooth down.
4. Cut the strawberries in four or six (depending on size) and arrange in the tin. A spiral pattern looks effective.

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## UNIVERSITY OF THE 3RD AGE

### ONE FOR THE ROAD

By Enid Hubbard – Ramsey and District U3A

It has been estimated that each of us has thirty years of life experience to share by the time we retire which means at the moment the Ramsey and District U3A has 4,800 years of experience to draw on. Many of our members have hobbies which they share in interest groups while others are invited to write about their passion in our quarterly magazine.



Mike Lewis has written about his love of the automobile for several years, first with his excellent motoring tips and latterly with the story of each of the cars he has owned including the one he is building, a JBA Falcon Sports Car Kit!

As high summer approaches many of us will be looking forward to a 'staycation' or maybe a week or so touring the beauty spots of Britain. Mike has some excellent advice for preparing our cars for any long journeys we might be making this summer. He writes, A few simple checks could help us avoid breakdowns which could spoil everyone's summer.

Regular servicing and checking your vehicle is in good running order before setting out will reduce your chances of breaking down on the road. So is your vehicle ready?

The **POWDERY** check is a good reminder of what you need to do...

**PETROL** (or diesel). Have you got enough? Do you know where to fill up?

**OIL** - Check it before your journey

**WATER** - Check radiator and screen wash

**DAMAGE** - Check wipers for signs of damage and replace them before setting out.

**ELECTRICS** - Check Lights, indicators and controls are working.

**RUBBER** - Tyres - are they correctly inflated, with good tread and free from damage.

**YOURSELF** - are you fit to drive? Have you slept well? Are you taking medication that might affect your driving?

Having checked the car please ensure you have an emergency kit for yourself and passengers - this should include.

- Water
- Sunglasses
- First-aid kit
- Food
- Medication (If needed)
- Map in case the GPS fails
- Fluorescent jacket
- Warning Triangle (Don't use on Motorways)
- Warm/waterproof clothing
- An empty waste bag for rubbish

These are simple precautions that can be overlooked amidst shopping, washing and packing for your trip. I hope you have safe and happy motoring this summer,

Mike the Mechanic



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## politics

## RE-ELECTED VARA STRIKES STRONG COMMONS TONE

Shailesh Vara MP has strongly criticised Highways England and called for the installation of a central victim's helpline in the House of Commons after increasing his vote share in the national election early last month.

Mr Vara, who was re-elected with a slightly reduced majority of 18,000, held off a stronger than expected challenge from Labour's Iain Ramsbottom, who seemingly took the majority of the 10,000 votes lost by UKIP candidate John Whitby.

Following the election, the Conservative MP has been particularly active in the House, challenging the newly promoted Leader of the House, Andrea Leadsom, regarding the decision by Highways England to close the slip road on to the A1(M) southbound at Junction 17. Mr Vara asked for a statement from the Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling MP, urging Highways England to work more closely with the communities affected by their decisions, saying "This week, there has been absolute misery for thousands of motorists in my constituency. It has arisen because of a decision by Highways England

to close off a slip road at junction 17 leading on to the A1(M)."

He also criticised Highways England for its lack of action prior to closing the slip road, in particular the lack of adequate notice to motorists, the absence of consultation with local stakeholders such as councillors and Parish Councils, and the lack of proper thought being given to alternative routes.

Mrs Leadsom, in her reply, said: "My honourable friend raises an issue again that is pertinent to all of our constituencies, which is the action on roads that is taken without due notice being given, so I will be very happy if he wanted to write to me on this to pass it on to the Secretary of State for Transport to take the appropriate action."



Mr Vara continued his criticism after the exchange, saying: "Highways England need to understand that their decision has had a massive impact on thousands of motorists causing them untold misery on the roads.

The decision to close the slip road should have been taken after proper advance notice to motorists and much wider consultation with stakeholders. Additionally, there should have been a lot more thought given to alternative routes, particularly given that the present diversion is along a route where roadworks are already taking place."

As we go to print, Mr Vara was again in action in the chamber during a debate following the Prime Ministers report on her meeting

with the European council. Mr Vara urged the Prime Minister to remind EU leaders that many EU companies use English and Welsh law for their contracts, which means that in cases of dispute they would also use UK courts and judges, asking "When the Prime Minister next meets her EU counterparts, may I suggest that she gently reminds them that many of the companies in their own countries—the companies that drive their economies—actually use English and Welsh contract law, which is enforced in our courts by our judges, and the reason why they use English and Welsh law is that, globally, our judicial system commands greater respect than the judicial systems of Germany, France, Italy and so on?"

In agreeing with Mr Vara, the Prime Minister noted: My hon. Friend makes an extremely good point, and the nub of it is that our courts are respected around the world. As he says, people choose to use our law because they respect our courts, and they also respect the validity of our law. It is important that citizens in the UK are under the jurisdiction of our courts."

## business

## CUTTING YOUR COSTS

By Dean Crago

Price comparison websites - Power to the people (or have we been had by clever marketing, again)?

Price comparison websites are frequently the first port of call for both companies and individuals when they want to reduce their costs.

There are a long list of different services to compare, from utilities and financial services through the whole gamut of insurance products (and much more) which anyone can easily use to shop around and simply switch if they like.

This method of shopping appeals because we now have direct competition between all the players, right? The actual costs must surely be stripped right back to the bone? If not we the people will easily take our business elsewhere, yes?

While this is true to a degree there is a fair argument that says all we have now is a new kind of marketing. This new strategy, psychologically, is dressed up as a democratic tool to empower the consumer with choice, but has just ended up no better (or in some cases much worse) than what we had before. We feel better about our decision to purchase because the website says it is the best.

There are a lot of issues in this so I have to focus on a few of the important ones.

**Compare** (some of) the market Comparison sites will only compare products and services that pay them commission. Bang goes the illusion that you are getting the best possible deal out there as a good proportion of companies do not pay commission and are excluded.

**Who is getting the money we save?**

Fierce competition drives prices down so where does this money go? "In 2011 Towers Watson, a consultancy, in a note entitled

"Why aren't we making money?", said that

"unnecessary" price competition following the rise of comparison sites in Britain had cost insurers £1 billion (\$1.5 billion) a year." \* That's just the insurance industry.

While we are receiving on one hand the benefit from price competition we are loosing on the other with a massive new layer of costs

- including large and very slick advertising campaigns (we have all been following the exploits of a pair of meerkats for years now), referral commissions, operating costs and profit margins.

Nothing wrong with commission per se, however in a recent paper, David Ronayne of Warwick University argues that consumers often lose out from comparison sites. "For instance, suppose some consumers are loyal to a single comparison site, and do not use any others to compare prices. The lucky

website can crank up its referral fees, safe in the knowledge that insurers must pay up if they want access to its captive market. Those fee hikes are then passed on to consumers in the form of higher premiums. In effect, consumers are taxed for their loyalty—just as they were before comparison sites were invented." \* You can get around this by using multiple sites but is not that defeating the whole point of it?

**It's all about price**

The relentless competitive price comparison has led to an almost exclusive focus on the headline price at the expense of the quality, service and coverage within the product. In the field of insurance Clive Adamson, Financial Conduct Authority's director of supervision, said "Our review found that they [price comparison websites] were not meeting our requirements in delivering fair and consistent outcomes for consumers. We also found, through our consumer research, that consumers had a number of misconceptions about the services they provided.....It is important for consumers to understand that not all products are the same and the cheapest product may not always be the best for their needs." \*\* It is particularly important that your business

gets the right advice and products for your needs. If not, you may be stuck with insufficient cover and only discover it when you need to make a claim.

Utility comparisons have also seen consumer frustration as direct like for like comparison is often difficult to judge due to different methods being used to generate the online quotes.

When submitting energy information online always have a current bill handy and use the previous 12 months actual usage (in kWh). This will at least give you the most accurate quote for the companies which that site promotes.

**What to do**

Contact me for further information on accessing free impartial 'whole of market' quotes and specialists on 07929 205661. With me there is never a charge and never any obligation, here to help.

**References**

\*<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21657458-price-comparison-websites-should-help-lower-prices-left-unchecked-they-may>  
\*\* <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2014/jul/16/price-comparison-sites-criticisedfailings>



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## DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Most business owners and managers have some understanding of disciplinary procedures and principles, and understand gross misconduct offences to be those which are serious enough to warrant dismissal without needing previous warnings to be active.

But there are some common misconceptions about gross misconduct, and some key points to consider.

### What counts as gross misconduct?

For an offence to be gross misconduct it basically has to be so serious that the employment relationship is no longer viable. These types of offences would usually be things like violence, theft, dishonesty, offensive or discriminatory behaviour, serious health and safety breaches. Most employers have a list in their disciplinary procedure, and it's sensible to do this, but also to ensure it's clear that the list is not exhaustive, and an offence not specifically listed can still be gross misconduct if it is sufficiently serious.

Regardless of whether something is on a list of possible gross misconduct offences, to be a fair dismissal, you would need to be able to demonstrate that dismissal was a decision that a reasonable employer would have made, that you followed a fair procedure, and were reasonable to believe your employee was guilty of the offence.

### Burden of proof

It's important to remember that the level of proof required to make a dismissal fair is not the same as is required in the context of a criminal prosecution, even if the offence being considered could be a criminal one, such as theft or assault. In an employment context it's more about balance of probability, and if after a sufficient investigation you are reasonable in believing the employee to be guilty, you don't need to be able to absolutely prove it.

### What about consistency?



Consistency is important, and if you dismiss someone for a gross misconduct offence that you have previously issued a written warning for, you may find yourself being challenged. You will be expected to have considered whether other sanctions are appropriate, and if a lesser sanction was issued previously, that would be taken into account.

On a practical note, regardless of what a tribunal would say, you are obviously more likely to be challenged if you dismiss for an offence you have not dismissed for previously.

However you are also entitled and indeed expected to take into account any mitigating circumstances as well as the employee's overall record, and if there are differences here which mean a dismissal is warranted in one circumstance but not in another, then it wouldn't be inconsistent to issue a different penalty.

### What does "summary dismissal" actually mean?

People often talk about instant dismissal in situations of gross misconduct, but actually that's a bit misleading, as you can't actually dismiss someone instantly even if you literally caught them with their hand in the till. Even with overwhelming evidence of a gross misconduct offence the principles of a fair and reasonable disciplinary procedure still apply, and employees are entitled to be notified of a disciplinary hearing, given details of allegations, given the right to be

accompanied to that hearing, and to appeal a decision. Summary dismissal actually just means dismissal without any notice period, the idea being that if the offence is serious enough to mean the employment can no longer continue, the employer should not be held to a notice period.

### Key points to remember

- Make sure examples of gross misconduct are listed in your disciplinary policy and that it's clear that these are only examples.
- Make sure you follow a fair and legal procedure to the letter even if it seems blatantly obvious the employee is guilty of a very serious offence. It could still be unfair dismissal without a proper procedure (although compensation may be reduced if it was clear the employee would have been dismissed anyway).
- It's all about reasonable belief and reasonable response rather than absolute proof, so as long as you investigate appropriately thoroughly and genuinely think the employee is guilty of the offence, you don't need to be able to absolutely prove it.
- Take previous record and mitigating circumstances into account, and look at other sanctions before deciding that gross misconduct dismissal is the only viable option.
- If you need HR advice in your business, do get in touch.

**Dawn Cross**  
Face2faceHR  
dawn.cross@face2facehr.com  
01487 711959

## GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH EFFICIENT SYSTEMS

Many small businesses are so busy running the business and fending off daily emergencies that systems go completely ignored and chaos often prevails.

### Efficient Systems Create a Better Experience for Customers and You

The business that leads in the race for customers is the business that has all its systems integrated and working smoothly together. A business that has an infallible billing system, acceptable customer service but has too much inventory is not going to win the race. Ideally, your systems create an experience for the customer that makes him or her want to come back for more.



sick, make mistakes and have emergencies.

4. Document Everything. Documenting how you do business safeguards your business in emergencies, alleviates confusion on the part of your team members and can ultimately protect you in potential legal matters. Think how much more appealing your business would be to a potential investor, lender or buyer if you could present a how-we-do-it-here manual.

5. Finally, Verify that Your Systems Align with Your Goals: This check is to verify that your systems have the capacity to help you achieve your business goals. As an example, there is no point having a business goal to grow using an online store if your website is not set up to

handle online purchases.

### How to Improve Your Systems

Here are some tips to make sure your systems are up and running at a winning pace:

1. System Reviews: Make sure you have a schedule for reviewing your systems and procedures. Consider reviewing them:
  - Monthly to ensure procedures are being followed and required (not out of date)
  - Annually to check for potential efficiency gains. This check should include talking to relevant team members to gain their practical advice about things they think work well or should change.
2. Lead the Pack. Do not follow. Just because a system worked for one business does not mean it will work for yours. Always consider your business and your customer needs when using other businesses as referees for model systems.
3. Have a Backup Plan. Take care that your systems have a backup and do not rely on one person to make them work. People get

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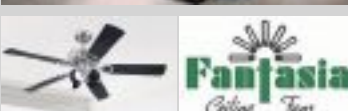
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## culture

Ramsey Arts Festival are proud to present **"Bring Back The 60s"** at The Drill Hall in Ramsey on Saturday 2nd September. Following the amazing success of the Who's Who tribute band concert last year, so many people have asked us to put on similar events so this year we are presenting a fantastic band called Abbey Road 5 who play all the hits of the era.

Abbey Road 5 are a quality and experienced show band that have played at many prestigious events including; Rolls Royce and Bentley Owners Club Summer Balls, the famous Lynford Hall Thetford, Huntingdon "Party in the Park" and the McMillan Cancer Charity Ball. Members have played with and supported many famous bands and musicians from the past.

Abbey Road 5 go that extra mile in that they not only perform the hits from the 60s but will take you on a musical journey from the 60s Brit Invasion to the famous Abbey Road Studios, to The Cavern Club in Liverpool and then across the pond to the Tamla Motown Factory in Detroit. The band also dresses in the clothes of the era.

Their instruments will take you back on a visual journey; the guitars, amplifiers and



drums are the same as used by The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Kinks and The Searchers to name but a few, in order to re-create the authentic sounds from the 60s era.

To re-create that special night, 1960s fancy dress is encouraged (though by no means obligatory), so join in the fun and be a part of re-creating the historic and iconic era of the 1960s all over again for just one night. Have your mini skirts, flairs and psychedelic clothes at the ready! The band will award a prize for the best dressed 60s Male and Female of the evening. Have your cameras at the ready to capture the moment!

This is your swinging 60s night so be prepared to be transformed back in time and be ready to twist the night away in true 60s style as we "Bring Back The 60s!!".

Doors at 7pm and dance till you drop!

Tickets are £10 and available from 07808 314141, School Plus in Ramsey or email [ramseyartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:ramseyartsfestival@gmail.com).

There will be a bar available.  
Bring your own snacks and treats.

## RAMSEY CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT

"Sounds of Stage  
and Screen"  
Saturday, 15th July

Pat Sutton – Chair

Lighter music for a Summer evening in St Mary Magdalene Church, Warboys (comfy seats!). The concert will start at 7.30pm.

The choir will be conducted by Musical Director, Angus Davidson and accompanied by Anna Aldous. Natalie Davies, mezzo-soprano a highly acclaimed local Warboys girl, and graduate student of the Guildhall London as well as fellow student James Lui will also be performing solos and duets.

Tickets are £10 including a glass of wine or juice, available on the door or from Warboys Newsagents, or you can call 01487 813 562 – Under 16s are free.



A film and tv fan? We talk to **Richard Stevens**, host of the **Film and TV Show** on **Hereward Community Radio**, and ask what to expect from his new programme

**How did you get into community radio?**

It was a chance meeting with the station manager that lead to a discussion about films etc and he asked if I would be interested in doing a show.

**What can you tell us about the show?**

The show is all about films and tv shows and covers different areas each week. It is usually me giving my opinions and facts but sometimes I have guests and we discuss and debate whatever the weekly topic is.

**What gave you the idea to do a film/tv music show?**

I have always loved films and tv shows and I am quiet the geek when it comes to them and have quiet an extensive knowledge of too many to list

**Do you only play soundtrack music?**

Yes we only play music found in films and to shows or on soundtracks.

**Do you have to be a 'mega film/tv fan' to understand the show?**

No absolutely not! A glancing interest in films and tv shows is enough as it is just for the love of them that I do the show. Anyone can listen to a show and will be able to get into it.

**Are there any special episodes planned?**

There are Star Trek, Star Wars, Disney, Musical and so many more shows coming up. Schedules are posted on the facebook page and twitter.

**Will there be any guests on the show?**

I will hopefully be having some guests come in as and when they can be available, including the person running next years Peterborough comic con.

**What has been your favourite topic this year?**

My favourite topic so far has been Marvel vs DC. I love comics and superheroes

**What TV shows are you watching at the minute?**

I am watching Arrow, Flash, Legends of tomorrow, Orange is the new black, blacklist, the 100, magicians, suits and lucifer

**What can fans expect in the future?**

I do regular live facebook videos on the facebook page reviewing new films in the cinema as well as shows as we go live on air as well. We also do a split grid game every day to test people's knowledge and to have a bit of fun.



ON LINE



After last year's great Who's Who night we say  
**Bring back the 60's!**

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**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

**Featuring The Abbey Road 5**



**TICKETS £10**

**SchoolPlus, Great Whyte or contact 07808 314141  
 or ramseyartsfestival@gmail.com**

**Doors Open 7pm for 7-30pm Bar available**



## culture

ONE TO READ  
**Nadiya's British Food Adventure**

That's right, you just can't get away from the Great British Bake Off.

Fresh from her prime-time BBC2 cookery series, the former Bake Off winner is bringing her latest cookbook

to the shelves, featuring what have been described as "mouth-wateringly delicious recipes from the programme."

Inspired by her TV exploits with some of the finest growers, producers and pioneers behind modern British food, Nadiya has created over 120 easy and enticing new recipes that mix the local ingredients she encounters with her very favourite flavours: a nod to her Bangladeshi roots

Beautifully photographed to whet the appetite, this is Nadiya cooking in the way she knows best - inspiring the rest of us to do the same. Expect more than just cakes and currant buns in this outing.

ONE TO WATCH  
**Spiderman Homecoming**

Well, last month DC came out with their biggest hit yet, and now Marvel is punching back with a return of a fan favourite to their MCU. One of the last recognisable Marvel figures to enter the fray, Spiderman was

held up for a long time in a rights issue that saw two stellar outings under the hypnotically hyperactive Andrew Garfield. Now, the series takes a twist as Robert Downey Jr's Tony Stark takes an errant Peter Parker (played by Wolf Hall star Tom Holland) under his wing in a star-studded not-quite-origin story which features the talents of Michael Keaton and Donald Glover.

Spiderman is another chance for Marvel to capitalise on the fun, wisecracking characters which have been serving them well. With the Guardians of the Galaxy having broken the mould, perhaps Spiderman's homecoming will be just what the doctor ordered!

ONE TO LISTEN TO  
**Lorde**  
MELODRAMA

Fresh from her highlight appearance on the Other stage at Glastonbury, Lorde proves with this album that she doesn't need choreography or a giant glass tank to wow.

The second full-length release for the New Zealand pop singer-songwriter was produced with Jack Antonoff, and features some of her most creative writing yet. Tinted with a sense of black humour, this album masterfully strafes the line between commercial pop icon and independent songstress, with a highly ambitious track listing which dares her to climb to new heights - which she reaches! There are a few similar themes, break-up songs are certainly nothing new when it comes to modern music, but the critics are almost unanimously suggesting that this is something special

ONE TO VISIT  
**Norris Museum**  
COMES TO THE TATE MODERN

The Norris Museum, the crown jewel of St Ives historical heritage, re-opens with its brand new layout next month, and should provide something for everyone.

When it comes to the local history buffs amongst us, there will be a selection of artefacts unique to the area. If you are more interested in the educational aspect, there are new learning facilities. If you are just a curious onlooker, then the updated galleries are sure to offer you the chance to find what you are seeking. However, in terms of history it's all about the stories you can tell, and the Norris and their dedicated staff of professionals and volunteers will have these in spades. So nip along on the 29th of July, and we can almost guarantee you will find something of interest.

ONE TO VISIT  
**DOWNLOAD FESTIVAL**

That's right, Download Festival, that Duddington based bastion of rock and roll which has served heavy metal and pop rock fans alike since it replaced the Monsters of Rock festival in 2003.

An incredibly vibrant and unique festival full of highlights, Download wowed. It was an ardenealine pumping, ear shattering thrill ride one miunte, and then a relaxed, funny, chatty picnic with friends the next, with equal parts dancing in the crowd and sat on the perfectly situated hill in front of the main stage.

This being my first festival, I heartily recommend camping the entire five days - it gives you time to relax into the camping, explore the myriad of comedy, shopping, club, cinema and food tents on offer and means you can get straight into the music. Coming to that, obvious highlights were Aerosmith, who closed the festival on the Sunday with a rocking setlist that even got me dancing like there wasn't 50,000 people behind me! System of a Down destroyed the first night, although the nostalgic side of me was stoked by the sounds of my teens in Good Charlotte and Sum 41, while energetic Australians Airbourne and hard rock titans Alter Bridge also provided stand-out moments.

What is surprising is the friendly, even family, environment created by the festival-goers. There is plenty of truth to the rumour that hard rock fans are good people, there was never a moment where I felt threatened or unsafe, even in the dense crowds just meters from the stage.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT  
**Harlock**  
BY SAMPHA

By Katie Broadbent

Sampha is one of those musicians that you may have only heard of through his work with other artists. Having previously worked with the likes of Drake, Frank Ocean and Solange Knowles, this year finally saw the rise of his solo career as he released his first album, Process. The album is a personal diary, unravelling the emotional turmoil of having lost his mother to cancer. Her death haunts the album, with several mentions of ghosts and angels, and quite often, rather bleak details of his feelings towards her passing. It is this sobering tone which pairs well with Sampha's delicate voice to tell his story of heartache.

Though each song on the album has a rather individualistic telling of this loss, 'No One Knows Me Like The Piano' is definitely the most touching. The close-miked vocals invites listeners into his mother's home, where her piano brings back fond memories of his mother's love and encouragement.

With its skilful arrangements and moving lyrics, Process is certainly set to propel Sampha's career forward and regard him as one of the great artists of 2017. Not one to be missed.

ONE TO READ  
**One Italian Summer**

by Keris Stainton



This book made me so happy I don't even know where to begin! It is the perfect book for summer with its picturesque backdrop of Rome and it's 'Will they? Won't they?' romances.

One Italian Summer is the first Keris Stainton book I've read and if this is anything to go by I'm going straight out to get the rest right now! It was effortless and charming from the very start and I didn't want to put it down.

'One Italian Summer' is the story of Milly, the middle child in a family that's holding on by its finger tips. After the death of their father Milly, Elyse and Leonie must find a way to live with the heartbreak of losing the most important man in their lives because,

as much as it feels like everything is falling apart, life goes on. With a summer family wedding planned the girls get whisked away to Rome where love interests are around almost every corner and Milly and her sisters have a chance to really come together and heal.

I'm a proper daddy's girl so any book like this was going to choke me up but there was something about the way in which Keris Stainton writes that dragged me right into the page and made me feel every word. There was a gentleness to 'One Italian Summer' that make it effortless to read. The characters are so incredibly captivating that you'll fall in love with them right alongside the enchanting city of Rome. 'One Italian Summer' feels like a movie played out on screen in glorious technicolour, a great testament to the writer. The story is full of highs and lows, a wedding, nights under the stars, ice cream and even a mini road trip. This book is now one of my all-time favourite summer reads. I would put it at the top of any must reads list for the beach and, with the sun now finally starting to show its face, it is the perfect time to crack open 'One Italian Summer' and immerse yourself in Milly's story. You won't regret it!

Review by Emily Bradley-Dorman

WATCH! READ! LISTEN! VISIT

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# TRAFFIC CALMING CONFIRMED

Residents of Ramsey Forty Foot gathered on Tuesday 20th June as Community Roadwatch (CRW) held a successful public meeting to present its unique, privately funded Traffic Calming Proposal to over 60 residents in a crowded village hall.

The proposal was presented by a panel including CRW's Managing Director David McCandless, CRW Directors Colin and Kath Silvester, Cllr Peter Reeve MBE and County Council Highways Project Officer, Mark MacDonald.

Mr McCandless later described the meeting as "lively", saying "60 people having what seemed like 60 different ideas about how the £20k should be spent and where including having humps and buildouts inside the village".

Cllr Reeve assured the meeting that while, from a political and County Council perspective nothing was ruled in or out, Mr McCandless did state that CRW's ethics would not support changes to the proposal that associated the Company with measures that had the potential to create more pollution, noise or vibration outside homes. In the event, such changes were not proposed by the meeting.

Finally, after much debate over nearly 2 hours and becoming emotional at times, the meeting took a vote to accept the CRW proposal.

However, the meeting did urge the sponsors to actively 'revisit their site survey' and consider some speed monitoring and

traffic calming measures at the northern end of the village, even if it meant sacrificing the 'white-gates feature' at the Southern extent as the budget of £20,000 was already overspent by £2,000.

With 'Ghost Narrowings' costing in the region of £200, Peter volunteered to fund that sort of feature near the Bridge himself if the budget could not cope with it. The review of the CRW proposal is expected, with an amended proposal expected to be published on the Company website in due course.

Mr McCandless also agreed to amend his Mick-George-sponsored SID schedule to squeeze in 2 weeks of usage in July for the northern-end of the village to see if it can detect the speeding CRW has so far failed to record.

The meeting was closed by David McCandless with thanks from the Panel for the attendance and contributions from the floor and with a reciprocal vote of thanks from the floor for the obvious time and effort the Panel had put into such a professional presentation that sought to get the best deal for the worst affected speeding zones in the village. The group also later thanked Cllr Adela Costello for her presence and pre-meeting contributions to the success of the Proposal and for representing the Mayor at the presentation.

More information can online at [www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/RFFProject](http://www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs/RFFProject)



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## out+about

## AN A-MOO-SING PURSUIT

One item in the local police reports caught our eye last month, the curious case of the disappearing cow. It reads like Woodhousian farce, but bear with it: a cow that had escaped from Bury was wandering the streets of Ramsey on Monday evening, 12th June. It was first reported on the road near Bury church at around 10:00 pm, but the write up, distributed via E-Cops, notes that "further reports tracked the cow as it wandered off along Meadow Lane and onto Hollow Lane,

then into Ramsey where it was seen near Millfields Park and New Road, where several people filmed it on their mobile phones." It then seems to have headed back out of town onto Hollow Lane, where attempts to get a rope around it seemingly failed and the cow headed back towards Bury Church.

The last sighting of it was on the B1040 heading back towards Warboys, but, and we quote, "although officers carried on searching for it, it had disappeared".

This is not the first vanishing bovine incident. In April last year, a police patrol was unable to find three calves which had escaped through the fence around their field, although one was later spotted by a taxi driver.

An X-Files mystery, or are we just milking this? We welcome all suggestions...

Maydoc  
TAKES TO THE SKIES

A home-reared crow has made his first foray into the unknown after being nurtured by a local couple since birth.

Maydoc, who was rescued as a hatchling by local residents Donna Plummer and her husband after falling from his nest, set out on his journey into the wild last month after being officially released from the garden.

In a message to The Reporter on June 27th, Donna said: "Maydoc took the big leap into the unknown and we hope that he will return to show us he is ok. He has a few hurdles to overcome yet as he still has some dependency on us for food, although he can feed himself now".

A naturally inquisitive bird, he is expected to stay around the Warboys area and seek out entertainment around the village. Apparently, some residents have already been made aware of Maydoc's flight, and will be keeping an eye out for him, but Donna asks that no-one attempt to hold him, saying "He is supposed to be free and ask people not to try and catch him or put him in a cage, or kill him".

According to Donna, he will eat most things such as dog food, veg, fruit and seeds and



loves to take a bath".

"We have never caged or tethered him", explained Donna "Maydoc has given us so much pleasure and we hope he has a future. It would be great if the community reported back if they saw him".

We should note that official RSPB advice states that you should never 'rescue' a baby bird unless you are sure it is in jeopardy, as fledglings are often still under the protection of their parents. However, it's always a pleasure to see that people will take that extra step for nature, and we thank Donna for getting in touch.

So, if you spot a particularly friendly and inquisitive crow, drop us a line or comment on our Facebook page. All that remains is to wish Maydoc a happy trail.



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out+about

# A FENMAN REMEMBERS

THIS MONTH, WE TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF THE HIGHS AND HAZARDS OF THE HARVEST

**D**uring our search into the wonderful history of Warboys, we stumbled upon the autobiography of E.P. 'Ted' Brand, a lifelong resident and former High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire. His account of growing up in the village was penned in 1977, but details Warboys from the early 20th Century, and is a fascinating read. We plan to serialise his account in this new Out & About section, and are keen to get in touch with any relatives or descendants.

Harvest time was very important. Just how important it was showed in the way our wages were organised; in those days all farm labourers had a month's harvest pay, which was double what they were paid in the ordinary way. For this, you had to work from six in the morning until seven or eight at night.

As you know, harvesting was always done with hordes, but it was a very hard job for them too. We mostly had three abreast or two behind and one in front on the self binder. A self binder cuts corn and ties it into sheaves, which are dripped to the ground behind it. The smallholder's team had to work all day, and like us they got very tired, but on the bigger farms they would bring in a change of horses. As always with horse,

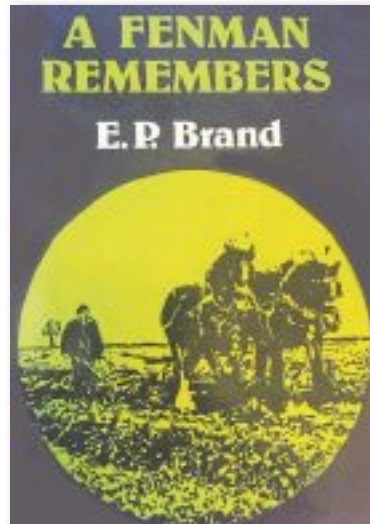
## TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 6 A FENMAN REMEMBERS

the work could be difficult. One had to be very careful when the flies were biting, since the horses were not easy to handle then; and if you got a 'blocked knife' it could be very dangerous. The knives were driven very fast by a connecting rod powered by the traveling wheel. Get a stone in the knives and you would stop very suddenly. Trying to get a stone out with the flies biting, the horse might move and you would lose a finger. You would then realise that you should have put it out of gear first. The worst accidents happened when the horses bolted, sometimes through fright, or if you ran over a wasp's nest. This could send the horses mad, and terrible accidents have happened.

One of the worst accidents in our District

occurred when a farmer was cutting his corn with a tractor. His two children came to the corn field to see him and they decided to lie in the corn and play hide and seek. The cutting knives went over them and cut their arms off! Had the horses been on the cutter it's a safe bet that they would have shied away or stopped.

Then there was reaping with an old-style reaper. This was used before the self-binder came in, and everything had to be tied with a band of straw. This was a very difficult job when the sun got out really hot as the bands would keep breaking, so the workers used to get up at three or four o'clock and get their acre tied while the dew was on. Lunch, by the way, was usually eaten between 10:30 and 11am. It was called 'dockey' and we took it to work with us. In those days it was mostly the top half of a loaf with either butter and cheese, or a large slice of beef or pork. With



A true find from Ramsey Library

a large shut knife we would cut a small piece of bread and place it on top of whatever we were eating with our thumb on one corner, and when you finished you threw this bit, the thumb bit, away. The reason for doing this was that your hands were mostly dirty and there was no means of washing them. In fact it was quite a clean way of eating your food. Thirty minutes was your allotted time. After that, it was back to work – until beer time.

**To find out what happened at beer time, follow next month!**

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## ADAM'S FITNESS CHALLENGE

# PICKING UP THE PACE

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It's truly fortunate I chose newspaper as a medium to further this fitness fightback of mine, as opposed to anything that requires me to stand for long periods of time. Yes, the pain has returned...

### 10K conundrum

Before I get into any of that, I really must tip my hat (my arms are still the only parts that work) to the Ramsey Roadrunners for hosting an incredible event. My first ever 10km run was organised by a national group who have arranged thousands of events, and the Roadrunners knocked them out of the water. From the facilities available at Race HQ, which included massage therapy, and a snack shop fully stocked by the Sandwich Bar, to the over forty race marshals who organised easy water stops and kept us safe and supported on the road, it was a remarkable achievement. My thanks go to Adrian Graham and his magnificent team for doing a superb job, making it easy for an amateur like me to have a good run.

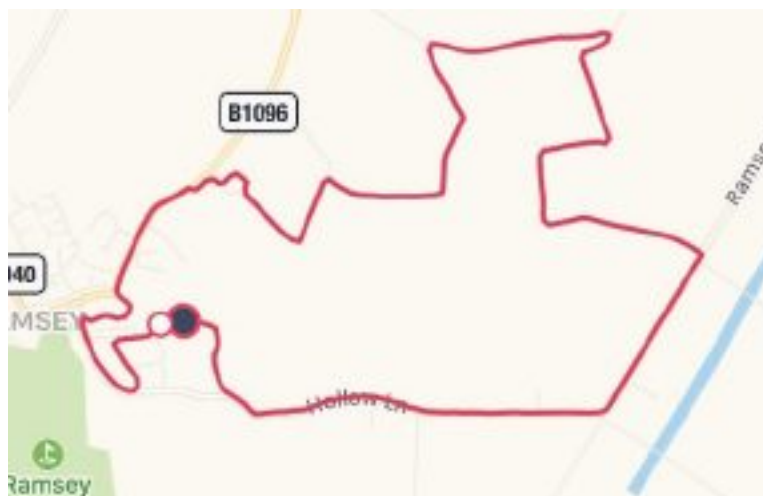
### Feeling supported

Well, I say a good run. Things got off to a tough start in Huntingdon at the beginning of the month. Having been struck down by some kind of shin-related ailment (diagnoses still abound!) Heading into my first parkrun back, I decided to keep to a slow pace and just get around... I failed. It must have been the quickest 2.5k I have ever done, followed by a stop-start walking jog that still left me shattered.

Cue the Abbey 10k. Preparation was at an all-time low - I had a banana that morning, and that's about it. I wasn't sure if I could still manage the full distance, regardless of walking, although fortunately a couple of acquaintances from my running travels were more confident in my ability. It was great to see so many people attracted to the event (which was the biggest ever), with great contributions from running clubs such as BRJ Run & Tri, not to mention the ever-fundraising Team Bex, who as always brought colour to the proceedings.

The Abbey course, as you can see from the image below, twists and turns through the fields north-east of the school, curving back past iconic Ramsey landmarks such as the Camp and the Abbey itself, before passing under the arch (which is a pleasure to run though, as you can tell from the daft, posing bloke with his thumbs up over there) and back down Hollow lane. My real worry was the fields, which came up immediately, but the ground was relatively flat and I only had one major stumble that was quickly corrected.

Reaching the third kilometre, my lungs were starting to ache. I began the usual count to the next marker, keeping my head in the game. Amazingly, I was starting to control my pace, not going off with the crowd (although



Trophy Winners (Left to Right) are: Michael Whitworth, Peter Wright (Guest high

my tracking data later confirmed I had gone off quick). By km7, I had finally settled into a consistent pace, although I was still having to remind myself not to stop. The inevitable kicked in around the camp site - suddenly the finish line was tangible, I recognised where I was again!

Two kilometres later and I'm coming past the tennis courts in the Abbey Grounds. There's a part of my brain, newly programmed in, that is screaming at me to leave it all on the field. I think I actually sighed at myself, and put on a sprint to the finish... almost! Unfortunately, my blinkered vision had mistaken the start line for the finish line, and I had to rely on the crowd yelling at me to keep going to push on the extra ten meters to the actual finish line. Well, it wouldn't be me without a little embarrassment!

### Come to the finish

While every run is an individual victory, I do have to mention a few people, not the least of which is the constant support I get from my family and friends, including that day's running buddy Jack (who got a new personal best despite 'just going to jog around'). One such individual is Stuart, who got chatting to me around 5km in and, despite the odd breather, came back and surprised me at the end - considering this was your first race in 8 years, amazing stuff! Also, two young girls stood with the Marshall on a corner between kilometres 7 and 8 - you were fantastic! You must have been cheering for ten minutes by that point and you still managed to encourage my tired legs to speed up. Its lovely to get support on the track, and you were giving it your all, so thank you - don't ever stop!

### Home run

It is true what they say, your home race is something different. Running under the Abbey gatehouse after 9km was a special feeling, and almost everything seems more

vivid - the crowd louder, the ground harder, and the finish more satisfying.

As for the fitness benefits, its almost instant relief. I'm running out of unbelievables. I never would have believed you have you told me I would run ten kilometres, would have laughed if you said I would do so in an organised event, and been amazed to hear I would complete three in six months. Add to that the sudden ability to pace (within reason, I'm still reliant on the fitbit for timings) and I am thrilled. But, I do have to come back to the fairly numbing pain in my muscles as I sit here and type. While it seems, it is possible to get out there and just run, my advice is prepare. And stretch. And prepare some more. My god, I wished I had the next morning! Anyhow, its onwards and upwards for next month. In fact...

### Suns out, guns out

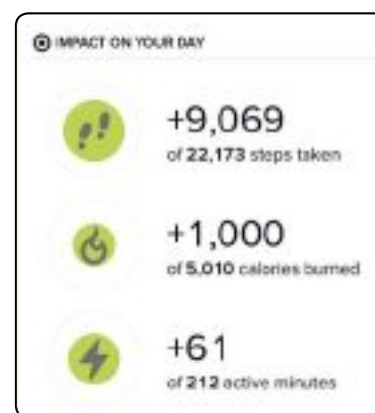
Yup, I'm back in the gym and this time it's all about the guns. Well, not really, but that is such a pleasing rhyme for a subhead...

I digress. At the start of the month, I sat down with Linda from One Leisure Ramsey to take on a brand-new fitness test. For me, this meant doing a series of small, easy exercises in quick succession (for example, jumping jacks or push-ups), each for one minute. I think I took this well, and I appreciate the kind tutelage provided by Linda on the odd point where I feel flat. These will now be turned into a quick set, basically allowing us to measure my performance by how quickly and efficiently I can make my way through.

So, expect to see me pushing hard in One Leisure next month - its back to the classes, into the pool and of course into the impressions suite itself, where I have my concerns about bending or breaking that long piece of elastic attached to the wall. I'm assured it will hold my weight with ease, but if you see someone fall flat on his face, its probably me!



Trophy Winners (Left to Right) are: Michael Wh



### Castle on the hill

Maybe its just Glastonbury, but I've got Ed Sheeran on the mind this weekend. I was listing to the appropriately titled (for me and fitness anyway) "What do I know", when the lyric "Just remember life is more than fitting in your jeans", caught my ear. Sometimes, I feel I get caught up in the goals, the weight loss or running times, and forget that I'm not just doing this to hit a number. I've come to enjoy it, what was once a task that would have bored me in a month has become something to enjoy, a hobby for me and a new way to socialise with friends. So as ever, I'd recommend getting back into it as long as it makes you happy - I'd never force it on anyone... and good luck!

# sport



## RAMSEY ROAD RUNNERS ABBEY 10K REPORT

Ramsey Road Runners hosted the Abbey 10k and Fun Run on June 25th, WITH both events selling out with 650 runners across the two races.

The race has grown in popularity over the years and this year saw record numbers entering. Race Director Adrian Graham said: "It is great that the people of Ramsey and the surrounding area are supporting this event. We have an interesting course that has many different sections to it and a fantastic bunch

of volunteers that make it all happen. We are looking already to next year's event with some exciting things planned."

### Great day for Ramsey

Steve Robinson of Peterborough AC was first to finish in 33:15, followed by teammate Ben Heron and Hunts AC's David Connell completing the podium. In the ladies race, Philippa Taylor took her second victory in a row at the event in 38:43. She was followed by Ramsey Road Runner Lisa Marriott in

second and Geraldine Larham of March AC in third. It was a great day for Ramsey with club member Ryan Bullard winning the 2.1km Fun Run in 8:14. Isabelle Wilkins of Team Bex was first girl home in 8:34.

For full results visit [www.ramseyroad-runners.org.uk](http://www.ramseyroad-runners.org.uk). If you would like to take part in either race in 2018, entries go on sale at midnight on New Year's Eve.

The event will take place on Sunday 24th June 2018.

### The Ramsey Rockets

In what has been a busy couple of weeks for the running club with Ramsey taking victory in the open category at the Green Wheel Relay, The Ramsey Rockets teams of Simon Mead, Natalie Selby, Michelle Brett, Andrew Brett, Steve Hall, Neil Hewson and Gavin Stokes finished the 7 stage 50 mile loop around Peterborough in 5 hours, 50 minutes and 18 seconds

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Managed by Huntingdonshire District Council

## POOL PROGRAMME

19TH APRIL TO 23RD JULY

EXCLUDING 29TH MAY TO 4TH JUNE

|    |                            |                                        |                                |                                      |                             |                            |                               |                                     |                                |                            |
|----|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mo | Early Birds<br>6.30 - 8.30 | Baby & Toddler Lessons<br>9.30 - 10.00 | Private Use<br>10.00 - 11.00   | Parents & Under 5's<br>11.00 - 11.55 | Adult Lanes<br>12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use<br>1.00 - 3.30 | Junior Lessons<br>3.30 - 6.00 | Public Swim +1 Lane<br>6.00 - 7.30  |                                | Lane Swim<br>7.30 - 9.00   |
| Tu | Early Birds<br>6.30 - 8.30 | Private Use<br>9.00 - 11.00            |                                | Aquafit<br>11.05 - 11.55             | Adult Lanes<br>12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use<br>1.00 - 4.00 | Junior Lessons<br>4.00 - 6.00 | Public Swim<br>6.00 - 7.00          | Lane Swim<br>7.00 - 8.00       | Private Use<br>8.00 - 9.00 |
| We | Early Birds<br>6.30 - 8.30 | Baby & Toddler Lessons<br>9.00 - 10.00 | Aquanatal<br>10.05 - 10.55     | Parents & Under 5's<br>11.00 - 11.55 | Aquafit<br>12.05 - 12.55    | Private Use<br>1.00 - 3.30 | Junior Lessons<br>3.30 - 6.00 | Floats Fun<br>6.00 - 7.00           | Lane Swim<br>7.00 - 9.00       |                            |
| Th | Early Birds<br>6.30 - 8.30 | Private Use<br>9.00 - 10.30            | Adult Lessons<br>10.30 - 11.30 | Private Use<br>11.30 - 12.30         | Adult Lanes<br>12.30 - 1.30 | Private Use<br>1.30 - 4.00 | Junior Lessons<br>4.00 - 6.00 | Public Swim +1 Lane<br>6.00 - 7.30  |                                | Lane Swim<br>7.30 - 9.00   |
| Fr | Early Birds<br>6.30 - 8.30 | Private Use<br>9.30 - 11.00            |                                | Parents & Under 5's<br>11.00 - 11.55 | Adult Lanes<br>12.00 - 1.00 | Private Use<br>1.00 - 3.00 | Junior Lessons<br>3.30 - 6.00 | Public Swim +1 Lane<br>6.00 - 7.30  |                                | Lane Swim<br>7.30 - 8.30   |
| Sa | Early Birds<br>7.30 - 8.30 | Junior Lessons<br>8.30 - 11.30         |                                |                                      | Party Hire<br>12.00 - 12.50 | Floats Fun<br>1.00 - 3.00  |                               | Party Hire<br>3.00 - 3.50           | Swimming pool closes at 3.50pm |                            |
| Su | Lane Swim<br>8.00 - 9.00   | Family Fun<br>9.00 - 11.00             |                                | Parents & Under 5's<br>11.00 - 11.55 | Party Hire<br>12.00 - 12.50 | Floats Fun<br>1.00 - 2.30  |                               | Public Swim + 1 Lane<br>2.30 - 4.00 | Swimming pool closes at 4.00pm |                            |

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## Upwood Cricket Club Report - June 2017

### Adult Results

At the time of writing, Upwood 1sts are currently sitting top of the Hunts League Division 3 having won 5 of their 7 matches so far. Second place Sawtry have a game in hand but the two teams have not met in the league so far this year. Upwood have had some mixed results in the last four weeks having lost a game against Huntingdon and one against Peterborough based Falcon XI. However, Upwood had their revenge and have beaten both teams in the last two weeks.

Things did not look good on Saturday 3rd June when the 1sts only managed to muster 9 players for the away game at Huntingdon. However, with a valiant effort in the field and some part time bowlers chipping in with some sound performances Huntingdon were restricted to 177-9 off their 45 overs. The initial reply was very disappointing and Upwood were soon 4 down with not many on the board. However, Upwood's longstanding wicket keeper Peter Cleaver and chairman Rob Landemore put on a 100 plus partnership to get within a whisker

of Huntingdon's score. Cleaver was then bowled by a superb delivery from the returning opening bowler and it was left to Adam Dean and Landemore to claw Upwood over the winning line in a very tense finish.

The following Saturday Upwood hosted Falcon XI at their Huntingdon Road ground and again Upwood just managed to wrest a win from a very precarious position. Things were looking good for the home team after they posted a good score on another belting batting pitch of 226 -6 off 45 overs; David Drage and Neil Tuffin putting on another 100+ opening partnership for the seasons. Although sunny the wind was extremely strong and all the bowlers running into it struggled to run up and control their line and length. With Falcon's number three batsman on 90 runs and only 7 runs to win off the last over Falcon looked to be favourites to win. However, Tommy Milner kept his cool to just concede 3 singles to ensure Upwood finished victorious.

The seconds are still looking for their first win but are putting out stronger and stronger teams when others in the league

have struggled to put out teams. The last two Sundays have both been against Adidda (from Peterborough). The first on Sunday 4th June saw Upwood post an impressive score of 213 - 6 off just 40 overs with Theo Hiscock starring with his best score for Upwood of 77. Adidda managed to overhaul the total in good time but with the loss of 8 wickets down and Upwood must have considered themselves a bit unlucky. Pick of the bowlers were Adam Dean and Adil Jain who picked up 3 wickets each. The following week Upwood visited Bushfields in Peterborough to play the away fixture and again put up a credible performance against a very strong batting team. Upwood subsided to just 128 but had Adidda on the rack knocking over their top 4 for less than 10 runs. Things were not to be as their number 6 scored a quality 79 and despite young spin bowler Jacob-Gathercole Clarke getting his man at the end it was too late and the seconds finished runners up again.

### Junior Results

The juniors have continued to play regular fixtures despite some games being postponed. The younger teams have fared the best with the Under 9 Wagtails and Under 11's notching up wins. The Under 9 Wagtails convincingly beat a young Ramsey team missing some of their star players on Sunday 11th June at Upwood. The under 11's also ran out on top against a developing Warboys VIII. These Upwood teams are

now really coming into their own this year following two years of gaining skills and experience.

The under 13s continue to put in some sound performances including against a very strong Peterborough team. Although they lost their bowling and fielding was exemplary despite losing two players as they followed a rogue post code for Upwood Cricket Club off Google that sent them to somewhere in Wisbech!

### New Level 2 Coach

It is with great pleasure that Upwood can announce that club stalwart and junior helper Adam Dean has now passed his level 2 coaching course following a number of weekends of hard work over the winter and formal guidance from a more experienced coach (our own Roy Brown) over the spring. Adam also had to undergo one final assessment with a group of under 13 players on Monday 12th June from Huntingdonshire Head Coach Dave Summers. All the coaches, parents and juniors would like to say well done to Adam and it is great to see his hard work rewarded.

We are always looking for adults and juniors to play, experienced or otherwise: Adult membership for the year is just £35 and juniors £15.

**Please contact Neil at  
npe.tuffin@gmail.com or on  
07968771138 for more information.**

## 5 THINGS TO DO AT THE PARK WITH YOUR KIDS!



### FRISBEE

We say frisbee, but you could get out there with a ball, a nerf football, even a boomerang if you wanted to! As we will be pointing out all throughout this piece, there are plenty of green spaces in the area, including (deep breath...) Newtown Road Play Area, Ramsey Forty Foot Park, St Mary's Play Area, Bury Playing Fields, Mereside Park, Adam Lyons Park and many more! It's never more than a few streets away, so there's no excuse!



### TENNIS

Yes, Ramsey does have a tennis club! Those courts you have all seen in the grounds of the Abbey College are run by the Ramsey Tennis Club, which has been a fixture of the town for almost 100 years. The courts are available from 5pm on school days, or all day on weekends and school holidays, and with Wimbledon just around the corner there couldn't be a better time to dust off that racquet and get back on the court!



### BOWLS/BOULES

Lawn bowls is part of the tradition of English Sports which just keeps coming back for more. An easy enough game to set-up on your own (sets are available at most sporting stores and online), just find a large enough spot on the green and get going! If you are looking for a more professional challenge, Ramsey Golf and Bowls club offers the chance to become part of the team and practice with the best in the area!



### CRICKET

For an Englishman, this is either the summer sport of choice or to be avoided at all costs! Here at The Reporter we are fully in favour, and fortunately so are the teams in Warboys, Upwood and Bury, each of whom comes equipped with their own clubhouses, nets and many, many teams. If this isn't your cup of tea, why not grab a Hunts County Bat and get out for some French Cricket one of the ten parks in the local area!



### GOLF

Summer provides the perfect golfing weather, as long as you keep the sun-umbrella handy! There's three courses within 10 minutes of Ramsey town centre, with driving ranges available at the Old Nene and in Pidley. If it's a family occasion, you can always take to the park (every village has one) with the younger children for a quick mess-about with a plastic golf set. It's never too early to get a young golfer started!

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# sport

## STEVE LOVELL JUST SHORT IN THE BIG ONE



Steve shows the relief of the putt that gave him second

**R**amsey minigolfer Steve Lovell almost pulled off the greatest result of his life by finishing second at the seven round World Crazy Golf Championships in Hastings. Steve had been the long-time leader and it wasn't until a monumental last round by 2013 winner, Olivia Prokopova that denied him the ultimate prize.

A delighted Lovell said, "Although it would have been sensational to have won it, I'm really stoked to have survived all the pressure of being in front for five rounds and finish second. It's like a dream to go into the final eighteen holes leading by two." Prokopova had come from way back to win and on that form, she was hard to stop.

### Best in the world

Steve continued, "Olivia is always a threat and with the wind picking up, she is one of the best in the world. Having the luxury of needing three shots was a relief and standing over a putt for £750 is something I'll never



Steve celebrating his biggest ever win with the manager at Hastings Adventure Golf, Simon Tompkins.

forget." Prokopova won on -17, Lovell runner up on -12 and Will Donnelly was third on -11. The result moves Steve back up to third in the British rankings.

The following week, Steve flew out to Horní Bezděkov, near Prague, in the Czech Republic to take part in the fifth Czech Masters. With the course hosting the World Adventure Golf Masters next year, it was all valuable practice and although he had a lowly 20th place finish, it was a fantastic experience at one of the world's most beautiful courses.

**If you would like to know more about minigolf or for any sponsorship opportunities, contact Steve on 07790 946185.**

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| <b>Brake discs and pads, front or rear</b><br>Worn or corroded discs can cause brake judder and unstable braking                                                  | <b>£229</b>                        | <b>£239</b>      | <b>£239</b> | <b>£259</b>                               |
| <b>Cambelt</b><br>Cambelts should be changed in line with recommended service intervals to avoid failure which could cause costly damage to your engine           | <b>£229</b>                        | <b>£229</b>      | <b>£229</b> | <b>£269</b>                               |
| <b>Shock absorbers, front</b><br>Worn shock absorbers can lead to premature tyre wear, poor ride quality and extended braking distances                           | <b>£229</b>                        | <b>£329</b>      | <b>£329</b> | <b>£329</b>                               |
| <b>Clutch*</b><br>The first sign of a faulty clutch is slipping and difficult gear changing. This can lead to complete failure                                    | <b>£429</b>                        | <b>£549</b>      | <b>£629</b> | <b>£629</b>                               |
| <b>PRICES INCLUDE LABOUR &amp; VAT</b>                                                                                                                            |                                    |                  |             |                                           |

\* Please ask at Service Reception for full for details

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